

RAMSEY CANYON LEOPARD FROG
(*Rana subaquavocalis*)

STATUS: Species protected by a Conservation Agreement.

SPECIES DESCRIPTION: Brown or green frog that is 63 to 101 mm (2.5 to 4 in) long. Distinctive pattern on the rear of the thigh consisting of small, raised, cream-colored spots or tubercles on a dark background; dorsolateral folds that are interrupted posteriorly and deflected medially; relatively rough skin on the back and sides; stocky body proportions; knob-like terminal swellings on the toes; and often green coloration on the head and back. The species has a long snore-like mating call consisting of 28 to 54 pulses of a moderate rate which is often given entirely underwater, as deep as 1.4 m (4.5 ft).

HABITAT: Adults are generalists found in aquatic systems in pine-oak and oak woodland and semi-desert grassland habitats in extreme southeastern Arizona. The aquatic systems from which Ramsey Canyon leopard frogs are known or likely to have occurred include springs, cienegas, earthen cattle tanks, small creeks, and slack water of main-stem rivers. Typical habitat ranges in elevation from 1,501-1,829 m (4,924-6,000 ft). In addition, Ramsey Canyon leopard frogs can be found in artificial ponds where reintroductions are taking place.

RANGE: Historic: Little is known of the historical distribution of this species. The historical range may have included the San Pedro River Valley and adjacent mountain ranges in Arizona and Sonora, Mexico.

Current: Populations have been found at nine sites in two canyons in the east side of the Huachuca Mountain range in Cochise County, Arizona. The species has been introduced to 2 additional canyons on the east slope of the Huachuca Mountains.

REASONS FOR DECLINE/VULNERABILITY: Threats to the species include changes to its habitat; genetic problems associated with small populations; possible introduction of non-native predators; vandalism; and possible effects of airborne pollutants from a copper smelter in Cananea, Sonora.

LAND MANAGEMENT/OWNERSHIP: Coronado National Forest, Bureau of Land Management, Fort Huachuca, The Nature Conservancy, and private.

NOTES: A Conservation Agreement (posted at <http://arizonaes.fws.gov/Documents/DocumentsBySpecies/RamseyCanyonLeopardFrog/RCLF%20CA.pdf>) among the landowners and State and Federal agencies is currently being implemented which provides for the conservation of the Ramsey Canyon leopard frog through captive breeding and reintroduction, acquisition of habitat, and population and habitat surveys. The Ramsey Canyon population receives additional protection due to its location within The Nature Conservancy's Ramsey Canyon Preserve. Due to conservation actions brought forth in the Conservation Agreement the species was removed from Federal candidate status in 1997 (62 FR 49191, September 19, 1997).